

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 45

By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Violet Canup Edwards
on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Violet Canup Edwards will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 2, 2003, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a native of Marshall County, Kentucky, Violet Canup was joined in marriage with Estil Edwards on March 3, 1923. After 28 years of marriage, Mr. Edwards died, yet Mrs. Edwards remained faithful to his memory and never married again; and

WHEREAS, Violet and Estil Edwards were blessed with one child, Rosalou Williams of Bartlett; today, Violet Canup Edwards enjoys the love and companionship she shares with her two grandchildren, Mike Hamlet of Dallas, Texas, and Tim Hamlet of Memphis; three great-grandchildren, Andrea Chadick of Amarillo, Texas Angela Fiordiliso of Long Island, New York and Cassidy Hamlet of Memphis; and five great-great grandchildren, Amanda, Ryan, Colin, A.J. and Hailey; and

WHEREAS, fourteen years ago, Violet Canup Edwards moved to Tennessee to live with her daughter; Mrs. Edwards now resides in Bartlett, where she is a highly respected member of the community; and

WHEREAS, as Mrs. Edwards approaches her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society; she has only been hospitalized once in her lifetime and is so healthy that her doctors are continually amazed at her vigor; and

WHEREAS, Violet Canup Edwards attends Bartlett Baptist Church, where she participates in a sewing class once a month and has not missed Sunday worship in over a year; and

WHEREAS, refusing to yield to the passage of time, Mrs. Edwards continues to paint and perform household chores; her philosophy is, "I have to do something"; and

WHEREAS, because she is such an amiable and endearing soul, Violet Canup Edwards' friends take special care to spend time with her, and Mrs. Edwards often recounts the tales of remarkable events in her life, drawing upon her over fifty years' worth of diary entries when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Violet Canup Edwards has always held a special place in her heart for people and animals who seem to be without anyone to take care of them, worrying about animals facing the frigid assault of winter and even feeding weary travelers and allowing them a moment's respite before they resumed life's difficult journey; and

WHEREAS, beginning each and every day with her heart and Bible open in prayer, Mrs. Edwards is known as the family "prayer warrior"; she has read the Bible through fourteen times and is called upon by members of the family throughout the country to remember, in her special way, people and situations who are in need of the healing touch of Grace; and

WHEREAS, Violet Canup Edwards continues to be full of laughter and awe, noting the simplicity and majesty of God's hand in all creation and shining as the bright light in the Edwards family and, indeed, in our common family of humanity; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Violet Canup Edwards upon the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our fondest wishes for her every happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.